

so determined that approximately one-half of the total committee membership shall terminate each year. Members and alternates shall serve in such capacity for the portion of the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified, and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified;

(b) The term of office of the initial members and alternates shall begin on the effective date of this subpart. Approximately one-half the initial committee members and alternates shall serve for a 1 year term.

§ 979.24 Districts.

To determine a basis for selecting committee members, the following districts of the production area are hereby initially established:

District No. 1: (Valley) the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Brooks, Kleberg, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, and Willacy in the State of Texas.

District No. 2: (Laredo-Coastal Bend) the counties of Zapata, Webb, Duval, Jim Wells, Nueces, San Patricio, La Salle, McMullen, Live Oak, Bee, and Refugio in the State of Texas.

§ 979.25 Redistricting.

The committee may recommend, and the Secretary may approve, the reapportionment of members among districts, and the reestablishment of districts within the production area. In recommending any such changes, the committee shall give consideration to:

(a) Shifts in melon acreage within the districts and within the production area during recent years;

(b) The importance of new production in its relation to existing districts;

(c) The equitable relationship of committee membership and districts; and

(d) Other relevant factors. No change in districting or in apportionment of members within districts may become effective less than 30 days prior to the date on which terms of office begin each year and no recommendations for such redistricting or reapportionment may be made less than 6 months prior to such date.

§ 979.26 Nominations.

(a) *Initial members.* For nominations to the initial committee, the meeting or meetings may be sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or by any agency or group requested to do so by the Department. The nominations, resulting from these meetings, for each of the six initial grower and three initial handler members of the committee, together with nomination for the initial alternate members for each position shall be submitted to the Secretary prior to the effective date of this subpart.

(b) *Successor members.* (1) The committee shall hold or cause to be held not later than January 15 of each year, or such other date as may be specified by the Secretary, a meeting or meetings of growers and handlers in each district for the purpose of designating at least one nominee for each position as member and for each position as alternate member of the committee which is vacant, or which is about to become vacant;

(2) The names of nominees shall be supplied to the Secretary at such time and in such manner and form as he may prescribe;

(3) Only growers may participate in designating grower nominees and only handlers may participate in designating handler nominees to the committee;

(4) Only growers and handlers who are present at such nomination meetings, or represented at such meetings by a duly authorized employee, may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for members and their alternates.

(c) Each person, whether grower or handler, is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. An eligible voter's privilege of casting only one vote shall be construed to permit a voter to cast one vote for each position to be filled;

(d) The public member and alternate member shall be nominated by the members of the committee. The public member and alternate member shall